

21

per genius. Its quickening influence so rapidly educated the public taste that the subsequent attempts of a broken-down opera manager to secure subscriptions in Chicago and other Western cities have miserably failed. The fact is a new standard of excellence has been offered and recognized, and nothing inferior can now be tolerated. Like Cooke and Keam and Fanny Keable, Ristori will long be fondly remembered.

We hope that the extraordinary success of Ristori—to which, without depreciating in the least her personal share in producing it, the masterly management of Mr. Grau, his tact, energy and courteous manners have largely contributed—may prove a lesson by which much intelligent and enterprising managers as Stuart, Brougham and Barney Williams will profit, to their own advantage and that of the public. The revival of the classical drama has been assured by the visit of Ristori. Even the Bohemian criticism, which faintly essayed at first to check the enthusiasm which her arrival occasioned, was soon silenced amidst universal applause. Incapable of thwarting or of leading public opinion, the Bohemians themselves turned quickly around and followed it, and the predictions of the *HERALD* were amply verified by the undisputed triumphs of Ristori. This unrivalled actress, moreover, with the unfeigned modesty of greatness, fully recognizing the fact that tragedy cannot be played by one alone, has given to the fatal "starring" system a severe blow by taking incredible personal pains to drill and discipline the troupe which has accompanied her. The members of the troupe have thus been enabled to support her not unworthily and to win their own meed of praise.

The Chivalry in Difficulties.—A New Way to Raise the Wind.

Since the termination of the war a great many of the rebel officers—major generals, brigadiers, colonels, lieutenant colonels, captains, majors—and so on to the bottom of the list, have taken up their residence in this city; some to practise law, some seeking employment as clerks, and all bent upon making a living in one way or another out of the mud-hills of the North. Even the redoubtable Henry A. Wise is not too proud of too independent to seek to better his fortune by establishing himself in the metropolis. But we have a great many people of our own to provide for, and so the fierce soldiers and the fiercer stay-at-home politicians of the exploded confederacy find it hard work to pick up enough money to pay their board bills, barbers, washerwomen and shoeblacks; and as they cannot find anybody willing to trust them, they are in a very hungry, dirty and dilapidated condition.

One of these needy, needy knights of Southern chivalry has devised a new plan to raise the wind. A correspondent of the *HERALD* having made a statement in reference to the financial operations of his retired warrior under the Jeff Davis Confederate government, he has commenced a libel suit against us, estimating the damage we have done to his reputation at fifty or sixty thousand dollars. Well, we have doubtless done more than ten times that amount of damage to many a Confederate general. Jeff Davis himself has just been liberated on straw ball, the two biggest straws being Augustus Sobell and Horace Greeley—for although both these bondsmen are responsible enough in point of money, they are aware that their liability is a mere matter of "straw," and is not intended to entail any responsibility upon them. Now that he is at liberty he may himself very well turn round and sue us for damages, not only to his reputation, but to his pocket, on the ground that the *HERALD* was mainly instrumental in exploding his bubble confederacy and turning him out of a profitable office. It is by no means improbable that he may do so; for the impudence of these "subdued but not conquered" rebels surpasses that of old John Falstaff.

The plaintiff in this libel suit probably hopes that we may pay him a few dollars to get rid of an annoyance, and thus enable him to appear in clean shirts and boots, and with a full stomach and a smooth face for a few weeks. But we shall do no such thing. We wish the case to proceed. When the trial comes on we shall have it fully reported for the amusement of the public, and shall lay open the bowels of the Jeff Davis confederacy in all its financial operations; unless, indeed, the court cuts us off with the sensible decision that has just been given in the Sharkey and Jenkins case—want of jurisdiction.

A New Fireproof Building on Broadway.

A New York life insurance company has concluded to put up a large fireproof building on Broadway, on the site recently occupied by the Appleton Building, which was burned down some weeks ago. This is a sensible undertaking. It is altogether behind the age now to build in any other manner. We have just finished and now occupy one of the finest fireproof buildings in the country, and it has been put up at a very reasonable expense. It is handsome, as well as convenient and substantial. The style is solid and massive, rather than fanciful. There is nothing of the gingerbread and tinsel character about it. To be sure, we have a sufficient balance remaining in the Chemical Bank to enable us to add any amount of elaborate fancy work we might please, if such had been our taste. But we prefer our building as it is. We do not think it could be improved, and we advise the directors of the New York life insurance company who are about to build on the Appleton site to secure the services of Mr. Kellum, the architect of the *HERALD* Building, and to intrust their work to him. He has put up all the principal fireproof buildings in the city, and is a thoroughly competent architect, and careful and economical in his expenditures. There may be other competent architects in the city, but we know him to be a perfect master in his profession, and we believe that his services, whatever his terms and estimates may be, will be found the cheapest in the end. We would also say that Messrs. Stuart & Smith, the builders who put up the *HERALD* Building under the direction of Mr. Kellum, are thoroughly competent and reliable men, and that any work they may undertake is certain to be well done.

EQUATORIAL AFRICA.—Mons. Paul B. De Chaillo, the celebrated African explorer, will during the present week deliver two lectures at the Cooper Institute, before the New York Association for the Advancement of Science and Art. The first lecture takes place this evening, when all the most interesting features of Equatorial Africa will be described. The lecturer on Friday evening will take his hearers to the Ashango land; and the journey will be illustrated with specimens of the gorilla, chimpanzee, dwarf and other natives to be met with on route.